



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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State awards \$1.2 million in Training Acceleration Grants

INDIANAPOLIS (December 19, 2006) -- The Indiana Department of Workforce Development and Indiana Economic Development Corporation have awarded \$1,219,480 in Training Acceleration Grants to 16 Indiana companies or consortia.

The Training Acceleration Grant program provides financial assistance to companies and organizations seeking to expand the skills of their existing workforce through training programs that result in industry-recognized credentials. This grant program is the state's primary job training program offered to Indiana businesses for incumbent workers.

"The Training Acceleration Grant program is an important tool to ensure that our Indiana employers maintain a competitive workforce," said Andrew Penca, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "Through these grants, Hoosier workers receive training that better positions them for higher wages and improves the competitiveness of their employers."

"The Training Acceleration Grant program plays an important role in assisting Hoosier businesses build a more competitive workforce at a time when economic growth and diversification are top priorities," said Michael S. Maurer, Secretary of Commerce and president of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

The program has four core objectives: promoting small businesses; fostering job retention and expansion; increasing personal income for Hoosier workers; and providing training to address skill gaps in the Hoosier workforce.

The names of the firms awarded the grants, location, current employment, number of trainees, and amount awarded:

Employer	City	Employment	Trainees	Amount	Outcomes
Chester, Inc. Information Technologies	Valparaiso	80	9	\$63,000	MCSE
Die-Rite	Elkhart	10	1	\$1,885	Toolmaker Apprenticeship
Fourman Entreprises	Hope	17	12	\$26,070	CDC
General Motors Corporation	Roanoke	2,903	75	\$192,500	Journey Level Upgrades
Indianapolis Power and Light	Indianapolis	563	4	\$6,455	Assoc of Applied Science Tech Substation Mech
Kendon Corporation	Muncie	25	25\$	\$94,430	Cust Cert. Applied Learning, Welding Certification
Lock Joint Tube, LLC	South Bend	200	3	\$9,552	Maintenance Apprenticeship
NIBCO, Inc	Goshen	174	1	\$2,668	Tool and Die Apprenticeship

Parrish/Meyer Machine Inc	South Bend	34	10	\$26,000	IST MEP's
Rieke Packaging Systems	Auburn	348	48	\$180,600	Apprenticeships
Sony	Terre Haute	1235	10	\$9,090	CDC leading to Assoc in Industrial Maintenance
Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce	Terre Haute	780	52	\$185,376	BSN/MSN
Union Hospital Health Group	Terre Haute	2017	38	\$193,269	BSN/MSN
1 st Source Bank	South Bend	1173	33	\$176,141	Various Microsoft Certifications
Ag One Co-op	Anderson	125	29	\$21,644	MOS & Cust Certification, CDC
Indiana Business Diversity Council	Indianapolis	290	8	\$30,800	Six Sigma Black Belts

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve worker skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

As a result of legislation passed by the Indiana General Assembly in February, 2005, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) replaced the Department of Commerce as the premier entity charged with state economic development. IEDC has a 12-member board chaired by Gov. Mitch Daniels.